

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 NEA-10

EA-11 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 153

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CO

SUBJ: LA FONMINS CONF: ALBERTO LLERAS EDITORIAL

1. THE FONMINS CONF CONTINUES TO OCCUPY THE ATTENTION OF THE BOGOTA PRESS AND IN A MAJOR EDITORIAL IN LIBERAL EL TIEMPO ON NOV 11, FORMER PRES ALBERTO LLERAS CAMARGO DESCRIBES THE INITIATIVE OF THE COLOMBIAN FONMIN AS "AN INDISPENSABLE EXPLORATION OF LATIN AMERICAN THOUGHT PRIOR TO AN UNDERSTANDING WITH SEC OF STATE KISSINGER."

2. LLERAS FINDS THAT THE COLOMBIAN DRAFT DECLARATION OF BOGOTA CONTAINS THE SAME LANGUAGE THAT HAS LONG BEEN USED TO DEFINE THE DIFFICULTIES THAT EXIST BETWEEN LA AND THE US. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, LLERAS FINDS SOME NEW ITEMS, SUCH AS THOSE HAVING TO DO WITH MONETARY POLICY, GREATER INTEGRATION OF LA AND A LA POSITION IN GATT NEGOTIATIONS. BUT EVEN IF THE US ACCEPTED ALL OF THESE, CONTINUES LLERAS, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE WORLD AND MUCH LESS IN LA. AS NOW DRAFTED THE DECLARATION WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR A SECRETARY OF STATE WHO HAS NEGOTIATED PEACE WITH CHINA, RUSSIA, VIETNAM AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. LLERAS ADDS THAT THE REAL PROBLEM BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH IS THAT THE USG ALWAYS COMES TO THE DEFENSE OF ITS BUSINESSMEN,
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NO MATTER WHAT THEIR POSITION, A CIRCUMSTANCE THAT HAS WEAKENED

GOOD RELATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF GOVTS. WHEN AMERICAN COMPANIES FIND THEMSELVES IN DIFFICULTIES THEY USE THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE US CONGRESS, WHICH PRESSURES THE SECSTATE TO GET TOUGH WITH THE LATIN AMERICANS. QUITE POSSIBLY JUST AS MUCH FAULT LIES WITH THE LATIN AMERICANS, WHO TEND TO APPLY DEMAGOGIC MEASURES AS A RESULT OF PRIVATE PRESSURES, BUT THE FACT IS THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH FOREIGN RELATIONS IN THE HEMI-SPHERE THAT RISE ABOVE PRIVATE INTERESTS. US FOREIGN AID DISAPPEARED AFTER BEING CONVERTED INTO AN INSTRUMENT OF EXTORTION TO THE END THAT THE LATIN AMERICANS BEHAVE THEMSELVES IN THEIR BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH THE US.

4. LLERAS CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT KISSINGER UNDERSTANDS THESE MATTERS VERY WELL AND CAN IMPROVE SUBSTANTIALY THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND LA, WITHIN CURRENT LIMITATIONS. LLERAS SEES NO HARM IN THE LATIN AMERICANS SIGNING THE BOGOTA DECLARATION; IT IS IN PART A PETITION FOR BETTER TREATMENT AT THE HANDS OF THE US. THE FACT IS, "THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH CANNOT BE MUCH WARMER OR CLOSER IF THERE IS TO BE REAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND NOT DEPENDENCE."
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